

Possible evening and weekend activities in and around Houston

Walking distance from the hotel

Near the hotel is Hermann Park, the Houston Zoo, and various museums including the Museum of Natural Science and the Museum of Fine Arts (which is free on Thursdays). A little further away (but accessible by bus, or a 45-50 minute walk) is the Menil Collection and Rothko Chapel.

The intramural fields at Rice (<http://goo.gl/maps/2zWPw>) are a good place to look for pick-up soccer and ultimate frisbee games if you are interested; there is also a 3-mile running loop around the perimeter of Rice campus that is very pleasant.

Miller Outdoor Theatre in Hermann Park often has concerts, etc. You need tickets (free but need to be picked up beforehand) to sit in the seats under the roof, but there is a hill with a good view that is always open to everyone. Friday and Saturday (May 20-21) there are performances of Puccini's "Tosca" at 8pm:

Website: <http://milleroutdoortheatre.com/events/832/>

A bus or train ride away

Downtown Houston has the Houston Symphony, which will be performing Grieg's piano concerto and Berlioz's "Symphonie Fantastique" May 19, 21, 22. Tickets start at \$25.

Website: <http://www.houstonsymphony.org/tickets/production/detail?id=6583>

Discovery Green is a downtown location that has Thursday evening concerts, Saturday evening flea markets, and other events listed on their website.

Website: <http://www.discoverygreen.com/>

NRG Park will host the 4th Annual Houston Barbecue Festival from 1-5pm on May 22: tickets are \$60 but include unlimited sample portions from all participating bbq joints. Tickets must be bought in advance.

Website: <https://houbbq.com/>

Architecture Center Houston does a walking tour along Buffalo Bayou, the main waterway through Houston, on May 19 at 6pm. You can take the train to the starting point of the tour. Cost is \$10.

Website: <https://ajahouston.org/v/event-detail/Buffalo-Bayou-Walking-Tour/qd/>

Downtown has BBVA Compass Stadium, which hosts professional soccer in Houston. The women's team (Houston Dash) play on Saturday May 20 against Orlando Pride, tickets starting at \$15. The men's team (Dynamo) play on Tuesday May 24 against Real Sociedad, tickets starting at \$25.

Website: <http://www.bbvacompassstadium.com/events>

St. Arnold's brewery is a little trickier to get to by public transport (although easy for those of you with cars) but has an evening of "craft beers and traditional beer hall music" from a brass quintet on Tuesday May 24 from 6-8pm. Tickets \$35.

Website: <http://rocohouston.org/performances/beerbrass-lastcall/>

The Houston Astros play downtown at Minute Maid Park; they are in action Friday through Sunday (May 20-22) against the Rangers. Tickets start at \$11.

Website: <http://houston.astros.mlb.com/>

There is a Houston Roller Derby event downtown Saturday May 21 from 6-10pm.

Website: <https://www.houstonrollerderby.com/index.php/events/houston-roller-derby-may-2016-double-header-event/>

Downtown Houston has (at least) two "Escape Room" places, which are fun activities for a group to go to: details vary but roughly speaking you have one hour to work together, solve lots of puzzles, and either solve a mystery, escape from a room, etc. Cost is \$25-30 per person.

Websites: <http://www.houstonescaperoom.com> and <http://escapetheroomtexas.com/>

Urban Harvest Farmers Market on Richmond Ave. is open Saturday mornings and can be reached by bus from the hotel.

Website: <http://urbanharvest.org/farmersmarkets>

Day trips if you want to rent a car

About an hour southwest of Houston is Brazos Bend State Park, with hiking trails and opportunities to see local wildlife.

Galveston is on the Gulf of Mexico and is about 1 hour away. It has some beaches and also Moody Gardens

Website: <http://www.moodygardens.com/>

A little closer to the city is NASA as well as the Kemah Boardwalk – see their website for more information.

Website: <http://spacecenter.org/>

Within the city is Memorial Park, which has plenty of trails for hiking – it's possible to get there by bus (<http://goo.gl/maps/zbFn8>) but it takes a while.

The Pasadena Strawberry Festival takes place May 20-22 just southeast of Houston. Tickets are \$15.

Website: <http://www.strawberryfest.org/>